

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11th, 2025



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

REV. SAMUEL J. LEISTER, PASTOR

3 SOUTH THIRD STREET

MIFFLINTOWN, PA 17059

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*Teach God's Grace through Fellowship,
Study, Service & Witness*

TODAY'S INTRODUCTION: The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It was true for those "who have come out of the great ordeal" in the Revelation vision. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Messiah Lutheran Church

3 South Third Street
Mifflintown, PA 17059
Church Office: 717-436-6213

Rev. Samuel Leister
Bob St. Clair
Slone Smith
Andrea Cameron
Diana Wise
Julia Martin & Hope Miller
Grace Miller, Zeb Berry & Ella Harris
Tammy Brackbill & Jen Hutchinson

Pastor
Organist/Pianist
Organist/Pianist
Choir Director
Lector
Acolytes
Communion/Offering Presenters
Altar Guild

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 11, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

*Please Stand as **YOU** Are Able

PREPARATION

CHIMES

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

[Please use the prelude as a quiet time to prepare yourself for worship.]

GATHERING

- * GATHERING HYMN *“Blessed Assurance”* #699 WOV
- * GREETING
 - P Alleluia! Christ is risen!
 - C Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**
 - P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
 - C And also with you.**
- * KYRIE (**C - sung**)
 - P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
 - C Lord, have mercy.**
 - P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
 - C Amen.**

* CANTICLE OF PRAISE (“Lord God, Heavenly King” -- In Unison)

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,
 we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.
 Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
 you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;
 you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
 you a - lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,
 in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

* SALUTATION AND RESPONSE (spoken)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

* PRAYER OF THE DAY (In Unison)

P Let us pray...

C O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Dorcas was a faithful and devoted woman of charity in the community of Joppa. Her kindness and her work with clothing were well-known, especially to the widows in town. When she fell ill and died, Peter raised her back to life through the power of prayer.

FIRST READING.....Acts 9:36-43

³⁶Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM.....Psalm 23 (*responsively*)

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Christ is the shepherd who leads his faithful to springs of the water of life. Christ is also the lamb who vanquishes sin and suffering.

SECOND READING.....Revelation 7:9-17

⁹After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" ¹⁴I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his

temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; ¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

L: Here ends the reading.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (In Unison)**

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Alleluia.

Jesus responds to questions about his identity with the remarkable claim that he and the Father are one. Those who understand this are his sheep; they hear his voice, follow, and will never be snatched from his hand.

*** GOSPEL.....John 10:22-30**

P The Holy Gospel according to John, the 10th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord. (sung)

²²At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly." ²⁵Jesus answered, "I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; ²⁶but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ. (sung)

CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON

Pastor Leister
Pastor Leister

*** HYMN OF THE DAY "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!" #328 Green Hymnal (vss. 1-4)**

*** APOSTLES' CREED (In Unison)**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

* PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

(The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord from their pews at whatever level of physical contact with which they are comfortable).

OFFERING PRESENTATION

* SUNG OFFERTORY ('Create in Me')



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

* OFFERING PRAYER

P Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring.
Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may
live as your risen body in the world.

C Amen.

MEAL

* COMMUNION DIALOG

P Let us give thanks to the Lord.

C for through these gifts he comes to feed us.

P All you who are thirsty, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, receive bread,
and eat.

C Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and eat.

P Let us come to his table with joy.

C for we come as God's invited guests.

*** EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

C Amen.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER (In Unison)**

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

(If you desire, you may take a gluten free wafer located on the oak pedestal on the step in the front of the chancel).

*** INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

*** LAMB OF GOD (sung)**

C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

["At The Chancel Rail" – come forward by the CENTER aisle; take a communion cup from the table by the front pew. Approach the altar to partake, then move to the chancel rail to pray. Then, return to your seat using the left or right SIDE aisle]. (Fellowship cups are available for those who wish to remain in your seat for communion)

*** COMMUNION BLESSING**

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.
C **Amen.**

SENDING

* BLESSING

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.
C **Amen, Amen, Amen. (sung)**

* SENDING HYMN *“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”* #328 Green Hymnal (vss. 5-7)

* DISMISSAL

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.
C **Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
P Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!
C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

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NEXT WEEK’S LECTOR – Diana Wise

NEXT WEEK’S ACOLYTES – Zeb Berry & Braedon Walton

NEXT WEEK’S COMMUNION/OFFERING PRESENTERS – Braedon Walton, Thea & Brea Beward

NEXT WEEK’S ALTAR GUILD – Tammy Brackbill & Jen Hutchinson (5/5/25 – 6/1/25)

NEXT WEEK’S MANNA BREAD BAKER – Jean Berry

COLLECTION COUNTERS:

Today: Tammy Brackbill & Mary Grimm
May 18: Don & Barb Geedey
May 25: Cynthia Smith & Larry Goss

WELCOME TO ALL!

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME to worship at Messiah. We invite you to register your visit in the guest book provided in the Narthex. If you are seeking a church home, please speak to the Pastor. Our fellowship in Jesus Christ is open and extended to all persons who confess His Lordship over all life. Thank you for worshipping with us.

VISITORS ARE INVITED TO COMMUNE with us if they are baptized, and if with us in our faith, they trust Jesus’ promise of the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ.

ALTAR FLOWERS are presented to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Flo Williams, by Debbie Meinsler.

THIS IS MOTHER'S DAY and we are pleased to pay special honor to the mothers of the congregation. Those of us who are fortunate enough to still have our mother express gratitude for all that she means to us, and those of us whose mother has died certainly remember her this day and cherish the memory. Mothers are a very special part of God's creation and we thank Him for them.

JUST A THOUGHT – C. S. Lewis, Oxford Professor, Christian Writer and self-made Theologian (1898 – 1963): Christians believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God because He said so. The other evidence about Him has convinced them that He was neither a lunatic nor a quack.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SUNDAY BULLETIN IS THURSDAY NOON.

PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be included on the email recipient list for the Messiah Prayer Chain, please send an email to Pastor Leister at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

PRAYER REQUESTS will be placed in the Sunday bulletin for **one month**. If you wish to have someone included in the prayer list for an additional month, please contact the church office at 436-6213 or mlchurchoffice@gmail.com. If you have anyone who is a “last minute” addition after the bulletin has been printed on Fridays, please fill out an orange prayer card in the pew and lay it on the stand where the gluten free wafers are placed PRIOR to the morning worship service.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE for any change in addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, or for any requests for building usage. There are a lot of activities and some coordination is needed so events are not “overbooked” in any specific areas of the church (this also applies to church groups who meet in the church). Please contact the office at 436-6213 or email mlchurchoffice@gmail.com for any changes or requests.

IF ANYONE HAS ANY NEEDS OR CONCERNS, please contact Pastor Sam Leister. If you or someone you know is ill or hospitalized, please let Pastor Leister know. He can be reached at 717-436-8589 (home), or 717-348-1020 (cell), or email at mlcsleister@gmail.com.

THE MAY 2025 “MESSIAH HERALD” is now available online. Hard copies are available in the church office, Adult Sunday School Room, Kitchenette, and Fellowship Hall. If you want something placed in the Messiah Herald, please contact BOTH the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com and Bob St. Clair at stclairb@embargmail.com prior to the newsletter deadline, which is listed on the calendar in the newsletter, or online at mlcmifflintown.org. Also, if anyone would like to add or remove names from our email list, please let Bob know as well.

WEIS AND GIANT GIFT CARDS are available to purchase from the Disciples Class. This is a very important outreach ministry that helps neighbors in need in our own community. We thank each and every one for continued support of this very worthwhile project.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR for Sunday, September 7th, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for our annual day of service, **“God’s Work, Our Hands.”**

MAY'S "MISSION OF THE MONTH" at Messiah will be for Juniata County Meals-On-Wheels. The monies will be sent from Messiah directly to Meals-On-Wheels to continue assisting in the effort to feed the shut-ins of our community. In addition to your generosity, the PPC allocated funds to match congregational donations up to \$1,000.00. This is just one way in which we can continue to extend our mission in Christ's love beyond the walls of our church building.

REMINDER: **Please have all information to be placed in the newsletter** to Bob at stclairb@embarqmail.com or the church office at mlchurchoffice@gmail.com by the deadlines which are listed monthly in the newsletter.

THE NEW LECTOR SCHEDULE for July 2025 through June 2026 will be completed soon. If you are not already serving as a lector and you would like to read the weekly scripture readings, please notify the church office. Any young people who would like to read on the first Sunday of the month are also asked to notify the church office. If you would like to be deleted from the list, again let the office know. All lectors will be sent a copy of the annual schedule in June. Thanks to all of you who volunteer for this role in our worship service.

SUMMER CAMP 2025

Kate Swailes will be serving as our congregation's camperson for Camp Mount Luther again this year. This year's summer camp season will begin on June 15th and will run until August 4th. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you're looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. If you have any questions about camp, you can contact Kate or the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org. The camp brochures are available on the Camp Mount Luther site <https://www.campmountluther.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-Camp-Brochure.pdf> and camp brochures will be mailed to campers who attended camp in the past. Brochures and schedules are also available on the table in the Adult Sunday School Room. Submit your camp registration online at **Camp Mount Luther Summer Camp Registration** and provide the \$50 payment to Kate Swailes or church treasurer Jen Hutchinson. The remaining portion of the cost of camp will be covered by various fundraising events, donations, etc.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SPRING WORKDAYS – Camp Mount Luther Annual Alumni Spring Workdays have been set for **Friday, May 16th through Sunday, May 18th**. Lunch will be provided. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to the camp office at 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org by May 15th so that appropriate arrangements can be made for lunch. This is a great opportunity for you to enjoy the outdoors and support the efforts of Camp Mount Luther, possibly for the first time. We want to make sure our adopted cabins are ready for the summer season. Messiah will be sending many youth to Camp Mount Luther again this summer. We will be cleaning our "adopted" cabin in Pine Village. Please take any supplies for washing windows, sweeping floors, or raking leaves around the cabins. Thank you for your continued support of Camp Mount Luther. If you have any questions, please speak to Kate Swailes or Pastor Leister.

IF YOU HAVE ANY NEWS OR UPCOMING EVENTS, please contact Sheree Goss at 717-436-9613 or email her at msgoss@gmail.com.

"THE NEEDLERS" will gather for a luncheon on Wednesday, May 14th at noon.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Tuesday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Thursday – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Friday – 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWS

WELCA CONVENTION will be held on Saturday, July 26th at Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme will be “For All the Faithful Women.” The in-gathering will go to LDR. **The in-kind collection will be items for “period packs” which contain: regular tampons, super absorbency tampons, or packs of 12 pads that are unscented (long, super or ultra-thin).** We are hoping to be able to complete 200 kits at the convention. We will be collecting from now until the convention in July. If you are able to purchase either of these items, you can place them on the round table in the Adult Sunday School Room. If you would like to donate money to purchase these items, you may give your donation to Barb, Cynthia, Linda, Christie or Cindy. Anyone who is interested in attending the Convention, please contact Barb for a copy of the registration form. The cost will be \$40 which covers refreshments upon arrival, lunch and any item needed for the program.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

COMMUNITY

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR MAY

BACKPACK PROGRAM NEEDS: SINGLE-SERVE, NON-PERISHABLE LUNCH ITEMS
SUCH AS 15 OZ. CANS OF PASTA MEALS OR READY-TO-HEAT SOUP,
MICROWAVEABLE MEALS, FRUIT CUPS, AND PUDDING CUPS.
MONETARY DONATIONS ARE ALSO APPRECIATED

THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

- Today:** -Mother’s Day.
-10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
- Monday:** -7:00 p.m. AA in Youth Area.
- Wednesday:** -9:00 a.m., “The Needlers” in Fellowship Hall.
-12:00 noon, “The Needlers” Luncheon in Fellowship Hall.
-7:00 p.m., Choir Rehearsal in sanctuary.
- Friday:** -May 16—May 18, Camp Mount Luther Alumni Spring Work Days.
- Sunday:** -10:00 a.m., Worship/Communion.
-1:00 p.m., Delta Kappa Gamma in Fellowship Hall.
-6:00 p.m., PPC meeting.

PRAYER LIST

Joedy Arnold
Linda Bahorik
Melissa Bargo
Jeremy Barnes
Ryan Barr
Family of Joe Benner
Bill Book
Linda Brouse
Andrea Cameron
Evitt Campbell
Kenton Cohenour
Kim Dumais
Freda Durio
Cathy Dysinger
Renee Dzikowski
Kevin Fetterhoof
Neil & Pat Fisher
Bentley Fulkroad
Kristen Gaisor
Terri Gayer
Deb Geedey
Sheree Goss
Amanda Gregg
Fred Gross

Mark Harvey
Bill Heck
John (Pat) Henry
Sawyer Henry
Nox Hepburn
Nancy Howell
Annie Ingle
Michael 'Doc' Johnston
Guy Kerstetter
Jesse Kint
Nancy Kramer
Pastor Sam Leister
Cecilia Miller
Curt Miller
Larry Miller
Shirley Miller
Marlin Milliken
Claire Mummah
Linda (Kerchner) Parks
Kari Ann (Reagen) Petrine
Cheryl Pinkerton
Betty Ranck
Keith Ranck
Dave Reed

Diane Rowles
Greysley Rowles
Kelley Rusenko
Arlene Shearer
Lowell Shearer
Gail Sherman
Althea Smith
Dave Smith
Jennifer Smith
Family of Judy Smith
Joyce & Todd Spangler
Barry Strawser
Vicki Suoja
Amy Swartz
Molly Ulsh
George Varner
Roscoe Warner
Todd Wert
Kathy Whitesel
Jim & Heidi Woltman
Family of Paul Zeiders
George Zimmerman
Linda Zimmerman

PRAY FOR OUR SHUT-INS

--Jane Marhefka – Brookline Manor, 2 Manor Blvd., Room 221, Mifflintown, PA 17059
--Ray Bramm – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 108, Thompsontown, PA 17094
--Ruth Cisney – Honaman House, 58 Honaman House Dr., Apt. 112, Thompsontown, PA 17094
--Ona Stoner – William Penn Nursing Home, 163 Summit Dr., Lewistown, PA 17044